

§ 288g. Advisory and other functions**(a) Cooperation with persons, committees, subcommittees, and offices**

The Counsel shall advise, consult, and cooperate with—

(1) the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia with respect to any criminal proceeding for contempt of Congress certified by the President pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to section 194 of this title;

(2) the committee of the Senate with the responsibility to identify any court proceeding or action which is of vital interest to the Senate;

(3) the Comptroller General, the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Legislative Counsel of the Senate, and the Congressional Research Service, except that none of the responsibilities and authority assigned by this chapter to the Counsel shall be construed to affect or infringe upon any functions, powers, or duties of the aforementioned;

(4) any Member, officer, or employee of the Senate not represented under section 288c of this title with regard to obtaining private legal counsel for such Member, officer, or employee;

(5) the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Secretary of¹ Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian of the Senate, regarding any subpoena, order, or request for withdrawal of papers presented to the Senate which raises a question of the privileges of the Senate; and

(6) any committee or subcommittee of the Senate in promulgating and revising their rules and procedures for the use of congressional investigative powers and with respect to questions which may arise in the course of any investigation.

(b) Legal research files

The Counsel shall compile and maintain legal research files of materials from court proceedings which have involved Congress, a House of Congress, an office or agency of Congress, or any committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee of Congress. Public court papers and other research memoranda which do not contain information of a confidential or privileged nature shall be made available to the public consistent with any applicable procedures set forth in such rules of the Senate as may apply and the interests of the Senate.

(c) Miscellaneous duties

The Counsel shall perform such other duties consistent with the purposes and limitations of this chapter as the Senate may direct.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §708, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1880; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “of the”.

§ 288h. Defense of certain constitutional powers

In performing any function under this chapter, the Counsel shall defend vigorously when placed in issue—

(1) the constitutional privilege from arrest or from being questioned in any other place for any speech or debate under section 6 of article I of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) the constitutional power of the Senate to be judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own Members and to punish or expel a Member under section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States;

(3) the constitutional power of the Senate to except from publication such parts of its journal as in its judgment may require secrecy;

(4) the constitutional power of the Senate to determine the rules of its proceedings;

(5) the constitutional power of Congress to make all laws as shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the constitutional powers of Congress and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof;

(6) all other constitutional powers and responsibilities of the Senate or of Congress; and

(7) the constitutionality of Acts and joint resolutions of the Congress.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §709, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1881.)

§ 288i. Representation conflict or inconsistency**(a) Notification**

In the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter, the Counsel shall notify the Joint Leadership Group, and any party represented or person affected, of the existence and nature of any conflict or inconsistency between the representation of such party or person and the carrying out of any other provision of this chapter or compliance with professional standards and responsibilities.

(b) Solution; publication in Congressional Record; review

Upon receipt of such notification, the members of the Joint Leadership Group shall recommend the action to be taken to avoid or resolve the conflict or inconsistency. If such recommendation is made by a two-thirds vote, the Counsel shall take such steps as may be necessary to resolve the conflict or inconsistency as recommended. If not, the members of the Joint Leadership Group shall cause the notification of conflict or inconsistency and recommendation with respect to resolution thereof to be published in the Congressional Record of the Senate. If the Senate does not direct the Counsel within fifteen days from the date of publication in the Record to resolve the conflict in another manner, the Counsel shall take such action as may be necessary to resolve the conflict or inconsistency as recommended. Any instruction or determination made pursuant to this subsection shall not be reviewable in any court of law.

(c) Computation of period following publication

For purposes of the computation of the fifteen day period in subsection (b) of this section—